

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 SAB-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /085 W

----- 097077

O R 061105Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5654

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9973

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE COMPLAINT ON ISRAELI ATTACKS

1. SECGEN DAHDAH (NO. 2 IN FOREIGN MINISTRY) CONFIDED TO DCM AUGUST 6 THAT INSTRUCTIONS WERE ABOUT TO GO TO NEW YORK FOR LEBANESE DELEGATION TO PROTEST RECENT AND CONTINUING ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANON IN CONNECTION WITH WHAT ISRAELIS TERM REPRISALS FOR PALESTINIAN RAIDS ON ISRAEL. HE INDICATED THIS WOULD BE DONE IN THE USUAL MANNER, I.E., NOTE CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. DAHDAH PRESSED ARGUMENT THAT THESE ATTACKS ONLY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR LEBANESE AUTHORITIES TO CONTROL
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POPULATION IN THE SOUTH AND RESTRICT FEDAYEEN RAIDS ON

ISRAEL. DCM RESPONDED WITH USUAL ARGUMENTS POINTING OUT ISRAELI NEED FOR REPLY IN KIND WHEN ATTACKED. DAHDAH MADE HALFHEARTED EFFORT TO DIFFERENTIATE REPRISALS FROM HOT PURSUIT (THOUGH HE WAS CAREFUL NOT TO TAKE POSITION ADMITTING LEGALITY OF HOT PURSUIT HIMSELF). DCM AGREED THAT ISRAELI AIMS AND PEACE ON THE BORDER WERE BETTER SERVED WHENEVER ISRAELIS WERE ALERT ENOUGH TO INDULGE IN HOT PURSUIT AS OPPOSED TO LESS DISCRIMINATING BOMBARDMENT OF SETTLED AREAS.

3. DAHDAH INFORMED US THAT OF 18 CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF LATEST ATTACK ON CITY OF TYRE, 5 WERE LEBANESE.

4. COMMENT:THIS EMBASSY IS CONVERSANT WITH ISRAELI ARGUMENTS AND PRACTICE. HOWEVER, WE SUGGEST THAT IT MAY BE WORTHWHILE FOR USG OFFICIALS TO POINT OUT ONCE AGAIN TO ISRAELIS BOTH IN TEL AVIV AND WASHINGTON THAT THEIR "SURGICAL OPERATIONS" FREQUENTLY BRING ERRATIC RESULTS. RECORD OF ISRAELI MISTAKES IN HITTING WRONG TARGETS, INCLUDING LEBANESE ARMY AND CIVILIANS, HAS GROWN ENOUGH TO MAKE ONEWONDER IF THE SURGEON HAS NOT LOST HIS TOUCH AND SHOULD FIND BETTER WAYS OF OPERATING.
GODLEY

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